

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Mao MASUHIRO et al.

Conf. 9238

Application No. 10/728,820

Group 2146

Filed December 8, 2003

Examiner S. Sciacca

MAINTENANCE INTERFACE USER AUTHENTICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the cited documents are made of record on the enclosed PTO Form-1449.

As the USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and patent publication for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the cited U.S. references are not enclosed, as the present application is filed after June 30, 2003. Copies of the cited foreign patent documents and/or non-patent literature are enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in an Official Action. A copy of the Japanese Official Action in which they were cited is attached hereto, with an English translation.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

The petition fee of \$180 required by 37 CFR 1.17(p) was electronically paid.

Respectfully submitted,

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